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25X1 Met with Ed Braswell, Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to alert him to the situation regarding Senator J. W. Fulbright's (D., Ark.) query to Under Secretary of State Richardson on the subject of availability of national intelligence estimates for the Foreign Relations Committee. I advised Braswell that the Director had prepared letters to Senator Richard Russell (D., Ga.) and Senator John Stennis (D., Miss.) on the problem but was holding them for the moment, since the issue seems to have subsided. Braswell ventured the opinion that Senator Fulbright would not press for the NIEs but was merely testing Under Secretary Richardson. He added, however, that if this question should ever come to issue this was one which would justify invoking executive privilege. Braswell and I again discussed General Cushman's confirmation hearing. He said the Marine Corps was in almost daily contact with him and that the earliest possible date for a confirmation hearing was 17 April. He said the Committee has scheduled procurement hearings on that date but there is a possibility that they can also schedule the confirmation hearing on the same day. Chairman Stennis has not made a decision on this yet. Mr. Braswell brought up the subject of the Evening Star article on the Ervin bill and said he assumed that it would be helpful to us if Senator Ervin made the concession reportedly under consideration. He asked what our view would be on this. I told him that our people were contacting the Civil Service Commission today and were in the process of reviewing our position 5X1 in the light of these possible changes. 25X1

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